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DEATH OF HYMENOPTERA IN MOTH TRAPS. — I was interested to read J. C. A. Craik's comments on the rather rapid exhaustion and death of hornets in his New Forest moth trap *(Ent. Rec.* 92: 244-245). Most operators of MV traps must have noticed the same phenomenon affecting trapped wasps, and perhaps less obviously males (at least) of parasitic Hymenoptera. The sub-order Apocrita, to which all these insects belong, feed on protein-rich media as larvae but as adults are dependent on very frequent ingestion of sugars (eg. nectar, honeydew, sap, ripe fruit) in order to remain alive, let alone active, at normal summer temperatures. If worker wasps are kept unfed in pill boxes they often die overnight and almost invariably do so within 24 hours, unless their activity and metabolism is slowed down by refrigeration. Males of parasitic Hymenoptera generally do little better, although females of very many species are able to resorb maturing eggs, liberating sufficient nutrients to get them through temporarily hard times by this reversible suspension of their reproductive abilities. Males, and worker vespids, do not in general have access to a substantial food reservoir and their rapid demise in moth traps is probably a combination of their isolation from sugars and the relatively high, activity-inducing temperatures which prevail inside moth traps owing to the "glasshouse effect". — Dr. M. R. SHAW, Dept. of Natural History, Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.